

The Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Series presents:

***Mendez v. Westminster*: “Para Todos Los Niños:” School Segregation in the post-*Brown* Era?**

A Free CLE worth 1.3 Credit Hours, Course Number: 0099541

May 2, 2007
3:00-4:15 P.M.
Indiana Statehouse
Indiana Supreme Court Courtroom
Room 317
(Light refreshments will follow)

In celebration of Law Day 2007, and in the spirit of this year’s theme, “Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy,” the Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Series will host a free CLE featuring Sandra Robbie--the Emmy Award-winning writer/producer of “*Mendez v. Westminster*: Para Todos Los Niños (For All the Children).”



The Mendez Children posing with their sitter.

Before there was *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), there was *Mendez v. Westminster* (1947). Years before the U.S. Supreme Court decided the better-known case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Mendez family moved to Orange County, California, where their children were denied access to the local all-white public schools. The Mendez family fought the discriminatory policy of the local school authorities and won! Shortly thereafter, then Governor Earl Warren ordered the end of segregation in California’s schools. Seven years later, as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Warren authored the opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education* that declared all separate schools inherently unequal, and in *Brown II* (1955), he ordered America’s public schools to desegregate “with all deliberate speed.”

The CLE will feature excerpts from the documentary, remarks by Ms. Robbie about her work in creating the film, and an audience discussion about the continuing efforts to provide equal educational opportunities to all school children. Indianapolis area attorney Marisol Sanchez, a co-founder and member of the ISBA Latino Affairs Committee and an associate at Bose McKinney & Evans, will facilitate the CLE session.

Sandra Robbie is a Latina resident of the same community where the Mendez children lived and went to school. Ms. Robbie has worked tirelessly to bring this story to the public’s attention. As an intern at a local PBS affiliate, Robbie researched, wrote, and produced a documentary focusing on *Mendez* for which she received an Emmy Award in 2002.



Sandra Robbie

For more information or to make a reservation contact: Dr. Elizabeth R. Osborn, Assistant to the Chief Justice for Court History & Public Education, 317-232-2550 or eosborn@courts.state.in.us